based on expert technical advice, design and operaing practices at these staions are improved to ensure that accidents do not occur.

Pollution of sea water at Bombay Port

2192. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite existence of stringent laws to combat oil and sewage pollution of sea water, the Bombay port continues to remain badly polluted resulting in health hazards and damage to marine growth and aquatic life, as reported in Aquaworld of August, 1986; and

(b) What are the plans to control marine pollution and possible use of sea water for drinking/agriculture after desalination through solar power, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There is no doubt that pollution exists in the Bombay Port. This is caused by the discharge of untreated sewage, industrial effluents, solid waste etc. into the sea. This affects the fish and other acquatic life.

(b) The maintenance of pollution-free marine environment in the port is the responsibility of the Port Trust. The Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board and the State Government are responsible for ensuring that land based pollutants are not discharged into the sea and for enforcing pollution control laws. They have their own plans for controlling marine pollution and these are being implemented.

At present, technology is available in the country for desalinating brackish water so as to make it fit for drinking. The State Governments are making use of this technology to provide drinking water to small communities, where feasible. The technologies developed make use of solar power or reverse osmosis. The Department of Ocean Development has two demonstration plants based on reverse osmosis which are producing drinking water in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Technology has not so far emerged for desalinating sea water and for undertaking desalination on such a large scale as to make water available for agriculture.

Extension of Ganga Action Plan to all the rivers and water tanks

2193. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga Action Plan is likely to be extended to all the rivers and water tanks in the country on the lines of the successful experiments with London's Rivers Thames, as reported in Aquaworld of August, 1986.

(b) whether the new perspective plan for rivers in India has been worked out within a tight time-frame and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also likely to make drinking water available throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There is no proposal at present for taking up schemes similar to Ganga Action Plan in other rivers.

(b) No perspective plan has been worked out for pollution control on the lines of Ganga Action Plan for rivers in India.

(c) Does not arise.

Public Distribution System in remote areas

2194. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Centre's programme for distribution of essential commodities is not being properly implemented in the remote areas by the State Governments; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to undertake an independent

survey to strengthen the Public Distribution System in remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The Central Government has been impressing from time to time upon the Governments of States/Union Territories, who are responsible for implementation of Public Distribution System in their respective areas, to ensure proper and adequate supply of essential commodities, like food grains, edible oils, levy sugar, kerosene oil etc., through the retail outlets of Public Distribution System in all parts of the States, particularly the inaccessible, remote and far-flung areas. Guidelines have been issued to all the States/Union Territories to ensure that areas, particularly rural, remote and hilly parts which are unserved or relatively under-served by the Public Distribution System get proper coverage in the opening of fair price shops, including mobile shops. They have also been advised to develop proper monitoring system at Block, District and State Headquarters levels to ensure up-to-date information in respect of supply or otherwise of essential commodities to the Fair Price Shops, set up Consumers Advisory and Vigilance Committees at various levels including fair price shops level and tighten inspection and enforcement measures to ensure that fair price shops function effectively and essential commodities reach the people, particularly those belonging to the weaker and vulnerable sections of the population.

(b) No, Sir.

Allotment of accommodation to Army Officers at Naval Bases

2195. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications received by the Committee appointed by the Ministry of Defence to look into the matter of allotment of Types 'A' and 'B' accommodation to army officers including naval officers, posted at naval bases in the Southern Command area;

(b) what is the number of applications considered and the number of officers to whom accommodation has been allotted so far; and

(c) what is the number of pending applications and by when these are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) to (c) No Committee has been appointed by the Ministry of Defence to look into the allotment of accommodation to service officers.

Request for supply of DLZ cars by DCP (Security) New Delhi

2196. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 17th April, 1986 the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Security) New Delhi addressed a communication to the Manager of Indian Tourism Development Corporation asking for supply DLZ cars with clean shaved drivers: and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the official for violating Government's policy of non-discrimination on the basis of religion or caste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The objective was to get smartly turned out drivers for VIP duties.

(b) Does not arise.